

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

ALL OECD CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 210913

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LU, EEC, ECIN, EFIN

SUBJECT: VOUEL CALL ON HARTMAN

1. MINISTER OF FINANCE VOUEL ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR MEISCH AND FINANCE MINISTRY COUNSELOR KIRSCH CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN SEPTEMBER 3. VOUEL, POINTING OUT THAT LUXEMBOURG WOULD CHAIR EC COUNCIL JANUARY-JUNE 1976, ASKED FOR HARTMAN'S VIEWS ON PROBLEMS IN US-EC RELATIONSHIP.

2. HARTMAN DESCRIBED US-EC RELATIONS AS MUCH IMPROVED OVER LAST YEAR. HE CITED GREATER WILLINGNESS AMONG EC MEMBERS TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WITH US BUT ADDED THAT WE NEED TO DEVELOP A MECHANISM FOR DISCUSSIONS OF DOMESTIC ECONOMIC
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POLICIES. IN MOST RECENT US-EC CONSULTATIONS, US SIDE GAVE

BRIEFING ON US DOMESTIC ECONOMY BUT EC REPRESENTATIVES UN-
ABLE PROVIDE COMPARABLE PRESENTATION ON EUROPEAN ECONOMIES.
THE EC DOES NOT SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE ON ECONOMIC ISSUES AND
IN THIS WAY DOES NOT ACT LIKE COMMUNITY. OUR ATTEMPTS TO
USE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF EC COUNCIL FOR CONSULTATION HAVE
NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ISSUES BE-
CAUSE CHAIRMAN UNABLE TO PRESENT COMMON EUROPEAN POSITION
AUTHORITATIVELY. OUR DISCUSSIONS OF POLITICAL QUESTIONS
IN US-EC CONSULTATIONS ARE ALMOST LIKE NEGOTIATIONS BUT

THIS NOT POSSIBLE IN FINANCIAL CONTEXT BECAUSE OF LACK OF
EC POSITION.

3. HARTMAN POINTED TO NEED FOR DISCUSSIONS OF ENERGY
AND ENERGY-RELATED ISSUES. HE BELIEVED EC WILL HAVE TO
REACH COMMON POSITION EVEN THOUGH FRENCH NOT IN IEA. SOME
MECHANISM SUCH AS REVIVING OF HIGH-LEVEL GROUP TO BACKSTOP
COMMISSIO AS SUGGESTED BY SIMONET MIGHT BE CONSIDERED.

4. HARTMAN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WE CAN DISCUSS AREAS OF
US-EC CONCERN WITH THORN WHILE HE IS IN NEW YORK AND BE-
FORE LUXEMBOURG ASSUMES CHAIRMANSHIP. WE WOULD HOPE TO
HAVE DISCUSSIONS ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS US-EC RELATIONS
WITH LDCS. WE ARE ENCOURAGING OTHER USG ELEMENTS SUCH AS
TREASURY AND SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE TO INCREASE
CONTACT WITH EC.

5. TURNING TO QUESTION OF EXPANSION OF EC, VOUEL ASKED
FOR HARTMAN'S VIEWS ON GREEK AND PORTUGUESE ASSOCIATION.
HARTMAN SAID THAT WE WOULD BE GLAD TO SEE GREECE, TURKEY,
PORTUGAL, AND EVENTUALLY SPAIN ASSOCIATED WITH THE EC IN
A WAY THAT INTEGRATES THEM INTO DEMOCRATIC EUROPE AL-
THOUGH WE BELIEVE IT IS UP TO THE EC WHAT FORM SUCH ASSOC-
IATION TAKES. WE RECOGNIZE HOWEVER THAT THERE ARE SOME
POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS IN SUCH EXPANSION.

6. VOUEL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR HARTMAN'S PRESENTA-
TION OF HIS VIEWS AND CONCURRED IN NEED FOR CLOSER CON-
SULTATION ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS AS WELL AS
POLITICAL. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT LUXEMBOURG AM-
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BASSADOR MEISCH WOULD HAVE READY ACCESS TO USG OFFICIALS
DURING LUXEMBOURG CHAIRMANSHIP AND THAT US EMBASSY IN
LUXEMBOURG WOULD FACILITATE CLOSE CONTACT ON US-EC
QUESTIONS. KISSINGER

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